



ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau

STAT

FROM:		EXTENSION		NO.
Chief, Operations Group				DATE
				September 1988
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. C/Ops	25 Oct		PJ	
2.				
3. C/E&PS	26 Oct		W	
4. DD/FBIS	27 Oct		B	
5. D/FBIS			K	
6.				
7. PO/RA	10/27		Am	
8. SA/CD	28 Oct		OP	
9. C/E&PS	10/21		L	
10. C/AS				
11. AC/PERS				
C/B&F/AS				
12. SD			RA	
13.				
14. C/AG		11/2	W	
15. Exec. Reg.				

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

3 October 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Panama Bureau -- September 1988

I. GENERAL

As the Panamanian economy continued to deteriorate, partially as a result of U.S. sanctions, the U.S. Government initiated additional steps that reflect the continued tense political climate. On 15 September, U.S. media reported that the U.S. Embassy was reducing personnel by approximately 50 percent in view of the ongoing situation and lack of contact between the U.S. Government and Solis Palma regime. The U.S. Southern Command had announced earlier that week that it was shortening tours of duty for military personnel stationed in Panama.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. September could have been dubbed "Regional Speech Month" as the bureau covered several substantial discourses, beginning with Mexican President De la Madrid's traditionally comprehensive state of the nation speech on 1 September and ending with several speeches and news conferences at the United Nations by Panamanian "Minister in Charge of the Presidency" Manuel Solis Palma. Although Solis Palma was the most vocal throughout the month, that perennial favorite, Daniel Ortega, also contributed more than his general monthly allotment. Several other regional leaders, including Oscar Arias, Rodrigo Borja, and Alan Garcia, also contributed speeches of interest.

2. In what seems to be becoming a bimonthly event, the latest coup in Haiti saw us providing substantial press agency coverage to supplement the Herculean efforts of Key West's contractor in Haiti.

B. Lateral Services

Taking full advantage of the capabilities of our current lateral services software, editor [] worked with System Administrator [] and Communications Supervisors [] to streamline LSL maintenance procedures. First-line responsibility for entering headquarters-initiated LSL changes was transferred to the Communications Section. Because all bureau packages have been "built" from standard FBIS LSL packages, each change entered into the computer is automatically registered on both the standard FBIS package and bureau-specific package.

Two hardcopy printouts — one containing all FBIS LSL packages and AIG's and one containing bureau-specific LSL packages and AIG's — are kept in notebooks at the editorial desk. After changes are entered into the computer, the Communications Section provides the staff LSL officer with a replacement printout of the revised package(s) and, if appropriate, AIG(s). Each printed page contains the date of the most recent change and initials of the operator who made the change. Although the initial restructuring of packages and printing was time consuming, the effort has greatly facilitated and expedited LSL maintenance and provided editors with constant access to completely updated headquarters and bureau LSL's.

STAT
STAT
STAT

C. Technical

1. Following their disownment by headquarters' ERB, the bureau's two laser printers were declared too "uptown" for LAN service and detailed to administrative work. The less flashy but no less efficient Hewlett-Packard "Ruggedwriter" dot matrix printers stepped in and were performing efficiently and inexpensively at month's end.

2. Bureau technicians successfully installed a repaired zipper boot on one of the 9.2-meter satellite dishes.

3. The following accountable property was purchased locally:

a. One Sony Radio Cassette Recorder, Model WA-8000, Serial No. 91811. Unit Price \$ 303.45

b. One Samsung Video Cassette Recorder, Model VR2640, Serial No. 8030500090. Unit Price: \$ 220.00

c. Four Samsung Video Cassette Recorders, Model VR 2000, Serial Nos: 8040100109, 8040100738, 8040100915, 8040100677. Unit Price: \$ 220.00

d. Two Dehumidifiers, Whirlpool, Model MDL ADO202XM
Unit Price: \$ 198.85

e. Two Dishwashers, Whirlpool, Model 6000, Serial No. F81011407. Unit Price: 430.95

f. One Radio Cassette Recorder, Mitsubishi, Model TX-67, Serial No. 18975. Unit Price: \$ 90.00

g. Two carts for bureau printers. Unit Price: \$ 45.00

h. Eight Computer Desks, Armstrong, Model 250-001. Unit Price: \$ 45.00

i. One 19" Sharp TV. Unit Price: \$ 275.00

j. One 44GL Garbage Tank. Unit Price: \$ 96.60

k. Eight Brass Lamps. Total Price: \$ 483.00

l. Four Chairs for bureau's dining room. Total Price: \$ 224.00

m. Two Paintings for the administrative office. Total Price: \$ 89.90

n. Four Lamps. Total Price: \$ 285.03

o. Two battery-powered wall clocks. Total Price: \$ 53.00

p. Two Ceiling Fans for offbase apartments. Total Price: \$ 93.93

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Communications Section Deputy Chief []
[] was promoted to FBN-7 on 11 September and named chief of the Communications Section.

STAT
STAT

2. Senior communications operator [] was promoted to FBN-6 on 11 September and named deputy chief of the Communications Section.

STAT

3. Editor-trainee [] arrived in Panama on TDY 18 September.

STAT

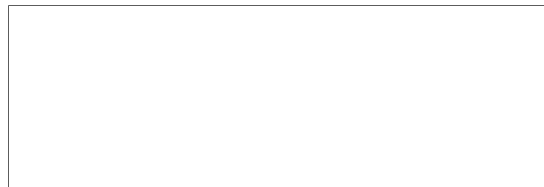
B. Building and Grounds

1. Contractor Taller Raulito completed painting of the Internet Antenna and ROSET cable casing.
2. Contractor El Cedro began the construction of a shed in the ROSET area.
3. Contractor Ceden Choy & Associates began the installation of a security door for the bureau's warehouse.
4. Contractor Abrego replaced the floor covering in the bureau's kitchen.

IV. VISITS

A. The bureau chief took part in the annual bureau chiefs conference in Reston, Virginia, 19 - 29 September.

B. Norm Mathews, chief of the Southern Command's Staff Support Office, visited the bureau with staff officers Dan Harrell and Marcela Edwards on 22 September for a briefing and tour.



Acting Chief, Panama Bureau

STAT